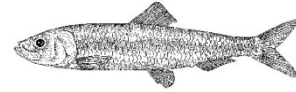

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
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Ketchikan Area Office
2030 Sea Level Dr. #205
Ketchikan, AK. 99901
Date: March 8, 2012
Time: 11:30 a.m.

2012 CRAIG/KLAWOCK HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY

Ketchikan....The Alaska Department of Fish and Game today announced the following information concerning the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp pound fisheries.

The 2011-12 herring winter food and bait fishery in Section 3-B and District 4 closed by regulation on February 28, 2012. Unharvested quota allocated to the winter food and bait fishery will be added to the spawn-on-kelp fishery. The final winter bait harvest was 310 tons. The spawn-on-kelp fishery is allocated 40% or 2,738 tons of the total 6,847 ton guideline harvest level (GHL). The GHL for the Craig/Klawock spawn-on-kelp fishery is the portion of the unharvested bait quota added to the 2,738 tons available. This gives a total GHL of 6,536 tons. This is **above 1,000** tons of herring, which provides for the maximum kelp allocation.

The kelp allocation for pounds that will be in place for the 2012 season is as follows (5 AAC 27.185):

Single Permit Closed Pound: 600 blades;

Double Permit Closed Pound: 750 blades per permit;

Triple Permit Closed Pound: 1,125 blades per permit;

Single Permit Open Pound: 250 fronds or 2,500 blades;

Multiple Permit Open Pound: 750 fronds or 7,500 blades per permit.

All pound operators are reminded that they must have a current Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission limited entry permit prior to introducing kelp or herring into their pounds. All *Macrocystis* kelp harvesters must have a kelp harvest permit prior to harvesting kelp for a closed or open pound. These permits must be in the possession of the pound operator and kelp harvester at all times during the fishing operations. *Macrocystis* kelp permits will be available in all Southeast Alaska Department of Fish & Game offices beginning Monday, March 12, 2012.

The Craig/Klawock pound fishery will be open for purse seining starting at 12:00 noon Saturday, March 17, 2012 and will close by emergency order on April 30, 2012. Seining will be allowed on a continual basis.

Spawn-on-kelp fishers and processors should read the SOUTHEAST ALASKA HERRING SPAWN-ON-KELP POUND FISHERY: 2012 MANAGEMENT PLAN for an overview of the management approach and regulations for the 2012 season. The plan is expected to be available by March 12. The 2011-2012 STATEWIDE COMMERCIAL HERRING REGULATIONS booklet contains detailed regulations for this fishery.

News releases web site: <http://documents.cfl.adfg.state.ak.us/TopicContents.po>.

<i>Office</i>	<i>Ketchikan</i>	<i>Petersburg</i>	<i>Wrangell</i>	<i>Sitka</i>	<i>Juneau</i>	<i>Haines</i>	<i>Yakutat</i>
<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830	784-3255
<i>ABWE</i>	225-5111	772-3983	874-3215	747-3254	465-4000	766-2533	784-3220
<i>Herring Hotline</i>	225-6870			747-1009	465-8905		